

United States Marshals Service District of Oregon

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District of Oregon

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Marshal Notes



I believe it's important to keep our law enforcement partners and the court family informed regarding the challenges and successes we face in the Marshals Service.

The current environment creates real challenges for all of us in government

service. We face increased demands and expanding workloads—often without corresponding budget increases. To be successful under these

conditions requires thoughtful leadership and resourcefulness. To smartly leverage all available resources we must establish effective partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies. Our goal in the Marshals Service is to continuously improve our performance and strive to maintain healthy relationships with all of you.

Notwithstanding these many challenges, I'm pleased to report the Marshals Service has seen a number of positive changes over the last several years. Nationally, we've added staff, improved our information technology capabilities and

increased the number of our regional fugitive task forces. At the district level, we've sharpened our operational policies and procedures, enhanced our facility and judicial security posture and expanded our partnerships for fugitive apprehension. A number of our successes for FY 2004 are highlighted in this newsletter. We'll discuss FY 2005 highlights in a future edition.

I wish to thank all of the employees of the Marshals Service, District of Oregon, for their outstanding work. They are dedicated professionals with whom I'm proud to serve.

I also want to thank all of our law enforcement partners and the federal court family for all of the assistance provided to us along the way. The cooperation and support we've received from all of you has been terrific.

I welcome your feedback as to how we are doing. Please let us know how we may better accomplish our mission and work more effectively with you. I also welcome your comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter.

I hope all of us will have a safe, productive, and successful year.

Fugitive Investigations

The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) District of Oregon and its Fugitive Task Force played a significant role in taking the "worst of the worst" off the streets of Oregon in FY 2004. The Task Force is made up of full-time participants from the USMS, the Portland Police Bureau and the Oregon National Guard. The

Task Force also receives and provides assistance to numerous other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies on a part-time or ad-hoc basis. The primary focus of the Task Force is to increase the overall safety of Oregon residents by reducing crime and violence by taking federal, state, and local fugitives off the streets.

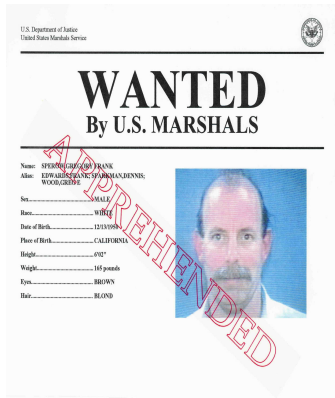
"The primary focus of the Task Force is to increase the overall safety of Oregon residents..."

Fugitive Investigations (Cont'd)

In FY 2004, the district received 590 warrants and cleared 591 warrants for which the district had primary fugitive apprehension responsibility. These federal warrants are issued for violations such as Escape, Bond Default, Parole/Probation Violation, and DEA referred cases. Here are just a few cases we'd like to highlight.

On May 26, 2004 members of our Fugitive Task Force arrested federal fugitive GREGORY SPEROW in Orinda, California. Sperow was wanted by the DEA on a 1996 District of Oregon Federal Warrant for Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and a 1996 Southern District of California Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Warrant for Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine and Marijuana. Sperow, who is a pilot, has a lengthy history of gun and drug smuggling with convictions to include a 2 year sentence for a 1,350 lb Marijuana Smuggle in 1975 and a 15 year sentence for a 1980 attempted smuggle of 40,000 lbs of Marijuana. Following Sperow's arrest, the Task Force was able to identify 3 airplane hangars, and numerous properties associated with Sperow. Further investigative efforts coordinated with DEA led to the seizure of a Cessna 182, a Cessna U-206, a 1933 Ford Coupe, a 1996 Chevrolet Tahoe, approximately \$37,800 in currency and 2 lbs of Marijuana.

On May 31, 2004, the district took custody of U.S. Marshals Top 15 fugitive SIDNEY MARVIN LEWIS from the



Israeli Police culminating a complex international 13 year fugitive investigation. Lewis had been apprehended in Eilat, a resort town on the Red Sea in southern Israel, after a coordinated effort led by the district. Lewis, who fled Oregon while awaiting trial, had been charged with conspiracy to import with intent to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of hashish.

Even as the district continued to keep pace with the increasing number of federal warrants, the district and its Task Force built on the Marshal Service's long history of providing assistance and expertise to other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in support of their fugitive investigations. The Task Force targeted the most dangerous fugitives and cleared more than 75 state and local fugitive cases.

On April 19, 2004, ROBERT ALLEN WAGNER was arrested on a Portland Police Bureau Homicide warrant in Las Vegas, Nevada by members of the Nevada Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (NV-FIST). NV-FIST located Wagner based on information provided by the Oregon High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Fugitive Task Force. Wagner was wanted for the March 23, 2004 murder of Lavelle Matthews. Matthews was shot by Wagner in an apparent gang related dispute after Matthews left a Portland Nightclub.

On July 15, 2004, JAMES RANDALL ECKERT was arrested in Miami, Florida by Deputy U.S. Marshals and Hillsboro Police Detectives acting on a lead request from the Task Force. Eckert was wanted by Hillsboro Police for murder. Also arrested were Eckert's girlfriend, Leslie Murray, and his brother, Payson Young, on Hindering Prosecution charges. All three subjects had fled Oregon together following the June 1, 2004 shooting death of Dennis Steffen.

Operations

Our operations section is the "nerve center" of the District. It's through this section that all federal prisoners are processed and produced for court appearances. The prisoner population in the District of Oregon has doubled since 1994 and in recent years the average population growth has been 5 percent per year. There are currently about 500 un-sentenced federal prisoners in USMS custody in the District at any given time and over 8,000 court productions were accomplished during 2004.

Our Portland deputies were involved in a number of high-threat moves within the last year involving defendants with

"The prisoner population in the District of Oregon has doubled since 1994..."

terrorist ties. High-threat operations draw heavily on District resources requiring increased manpower and operational planning. The recent addition

of our district Special Response Team (SRT) has enabled us to address these and other high-threat situations appropriately. Our SRT consists of a core group of specially trained and equipped deputies prepared to address high-risk prisoner moves, motorcade operations, warrant entries, civil disturbances and tactical response within federal court facilities.

These dedicated deputies, after completing core training in advanced weapons and tactics, must undergo at least 40 hours of sustainment training each quarter and maintain high physical fitness and firearms standards to remain on the team. The SRT has been deployed in several high-risk prisoner moves, tactical warrant entries and civil disturbance intervention in just the past three months.



SRT after a high-risk warrant entry

Court Security

Court Security Officers (CSO) are special deputized contract employees who serve as the first-line security force protecting the judiciary at 6 different court facilities in the District of Oregon. Currently, there are 61 CSOs and one Site Supervisor who provide this vital service. The CSO work force is composed primarily of retired law enforcement professionals. Each facility has a Lead CSO who runs the security operation. The Site Supervisor oversees the Lead CSO's and serves as the liaison between the CSO Program and the U.S. Marshals Service. CSO duties



Hatfield screening station

include screening for weapons and other contraband from entering the courthouse. Items screened at the entrances of our court facilities during 2004 include 3,115 knives and 12,304 other types of contraband.

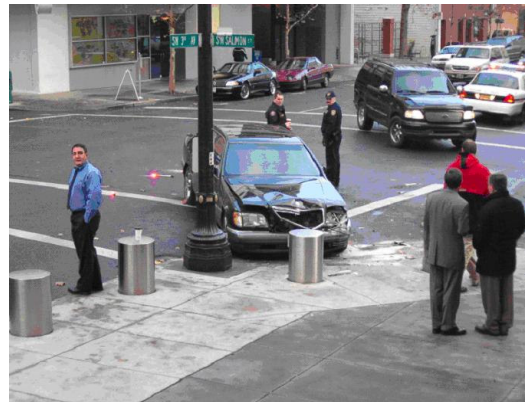
The CSO of the quarter award was started in April. The award is presented quarterly to a CSO in recognition of outstanding performance or a special act. Robert Dodd was the district's first recipient of the award with Gene Olsen, Robert Winkler, and Monty Ritchey receiving subsequent awards. The district also received five new CSO's during 2004 including Gary Berg, Berniece Johnson and Mark Murawski in Portland, Tim Damiano in Medford and Bradley Smith in Eugene.

Some security enhancements include the addition of an Ion Track Itemiser 3 explosives and narcotics detection and identification system. Medford and Portland District Courts use the system to screen all mail entering the courthouse. The system is

also used to test suspicious items found in and around the courthouse. This system is used daily with the Portland Itemiser logging 402 tested samples for the first six months of its use.

"CSO duties include screening for weapons and other contraband from entering the courthouse."

An extension project to the original bollard design at the Hatfield Courthouse was completed in October. These stainless steel bollards are designed to prevent a vehicle from penetrating the inner perimeter of the courthouse. The bollards proved to be of sound construction during one rainy day in November when two vehicles had collided causing them both to impact the bollards at the northwest corner of the courthouse. Both vehicles suffered major damage with hardly a scratch on the bollards.



Bollards work "As Advertised"

Asset Forfeiture Unit

Our Asset Forfeiture Unit has seen an almost 90 percent increase in total assets seized between FY 2003 and FY 2004. During FY 2004, 180 assets were seized with a total value of over \$7.5 million. The Asset Forfeiture program contributes directly to the State of Oregon through the Equitable Sharing program. This program allows state and local law enforcement agencies to benefit from its contributions in cases that resulted in seizure of assets. As a result of this program during FY 2004, 56 checks were disbursed to state and local agencies totaling more than half a million dollars.

"Our Asset Forfeiture Unit has seen an almost 90 percent increase in total assets seized between FY 2003 and FY 2004."

Here are some highlights of activities throughout the state: In Portland there were 112 assets seized including 41 currency seizures, 36 vehicles, 13 real properties and one ship valued at one hundred

thousand dollars. Other assets seized included clothing, electronic equipment, financial instruments, jewelry and weapons. In Eugene there were 22 assets seized including one real property and 10 vehicles. In Medford there were 46 assets seized including five real properties and 17 vehicles. It's important to note that for Medford this represents a remarkable 238 percent increase between FY 2003 and FY 2004.

As the Asset Forfeiture Unit grows it continues to have a significant impact in the criminal justice system throughout our state.



Seized Robinson R22 Alpha Helicopter

Eugene Sub-Office

From the period that brought us eight track tapes, black light posters, Watergate, and generic foods, came also the sterile—and not-so-functional—Federal Building and Courthouse to Eugene. Dedicated in 1975, the buildings saw only minimal activity from the Federal Courts, and none really, until 1980 from the

U.S. Marshals Service. It was that year that now retired Deputies Don Lamb and Roger Allen

“The Eugene Federal Courthouse was at the top of the list as one of the most vulnerable in the nation...”

opened the previously un-staffed office, festooned in bright red carpets, orange chairs and four yellow desks. The 2,000 square foot office was equipped with two cells, a one-way window that allowed the occasional prisoner to observe the deputies (but we couldn't see them) a manual Underwood typewriter and a roller and tube of ink to take fingerprints.

Since that time, many things have changed. Thanks to an early 1990s remodel that included a prisoner sally port, interview room and processing area, prisoners are no longer leg-ironed to deputy's desks in an open squad room for processing. Prisoners are now fingerprinted with state of the art digital fingerprint processing equipment with instant identity check.

Security enhancements over the last two decades have been made to a Courthouse that never was intended to see the kind of volume that it experiences today. The Wayne Lyman Morse U.S. Courthouse, currently under construction and scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2006, was designed to address these space concerns and to greatly enhance security.



Current Eugene Federal Courthouse

Medford Sub-Office

Our Medford office has seen a number of changes in the past couple of years. Deputy Jerome Brown reported in June 2003 after serving as a deputy sheriff in the Spokane County Jail. Deputy Rod Lowe reported in February 2004 after serving as a Detention Officer for the Marshals Service in Las Vegas, Nevada and this past December, Brad Dorn came to us from Denver, Colorado. Brad was a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the District of Colorado and filled our Criminal Investigator (CI) vacancy.

Several upgrades and projects have been completed and are pending for the Medford Office. The Court Security Officer (CSO) Control room was relocated to the basement area where adequate space was available for their operations. Once each year the Marshals Service selects an office to receive a complete control console and security upgrade. The Medford Office was fortunate to be selected in 2004 for these upgrades to include digital video recording capabilities and additional closed circuit television cameras. Other improvements already completed in the recent past include an expanded cellblock, additional office space, new furniture and two new vehicles. Currently funded, but not yet completed, is a secure perimeter fence encompassing a portion of the parking area around the James A. Redden Courthouse.

The secure parking area will be a very welcome addition to a grand building. A USMS fitness room is also on the drawing board and is expected to be completed during FY 2005.

We hope that the Medford Office's good fortune will continue well into 2005 and beyond. Every one in the Medford Office wishes all a safe and happy 2005.



James A. Redden Courthouse